

i mentioned the letter  
to my mother  
he's just got jaundice  
she said  
from all his drinking

i meant to go see him  
or at least write  
but i was moving around a lot  
running from the draft  
& never did

it was about 4 years  
after that letter  
that they found him  
in his old clunker  
in santa ana  
as dead as the battery

#### RUNNING LOW

-- for jack kerouac

realizing that i have lived  
at least 15 different places  
in 3 states  
over the past 8 years  
not counting the trips  
to here & there  
and now feeling tired running low  
but still not feeling  
i'm in the right place  
the chosen one & once again feeling  
like moving on i remember  
jack moving west in a train  
with everyone outside reading on the road  
wondering just how and why and  
where he'd missed the exit  
not knowing how far it is  
to the next one not knowing why  
there never seemed to be a place  
with enough space to stop  
for a while  
the shoulder of the road  
barely wide enough to pull over  
for a piss stop